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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returns they must in all cases and stamps for that purpose.

#### The Corporation Tax - Congress Should Relieve the Situation.

Under instructions from Washington the Collectors of Internal Revenue are notifying corporations, joint stock companies, associations and insurance companies of all sizes and shapes that the returns required by the hastily enacted law of last August must be filed on or forced in case of intentional omission or neglect. March 1 is only two weeks from to-day

There are some corporations, we understand, which have been asking for an extension of time on the ground of physical inability to complete the necessary work of computation before the date specified. There are many thougreat corporations to joint stock companies running country shops, which are hesitating as to their course and protesting against the requirement which will make a public record of the returns and thus put the circumstances of their business at the disposition of their business rivals. Semi-official promises ot served to reassure the minds of those who will be injured by disclosure. The law provides for no such discretion They shall be"-not may be-"open to aspection as such."

papers when the bogus "special excise" privacy of business. Not less than cluding the strikingly typical Vermont last day for filing returns.

In view of the chronology thus indicatel, the grave nature of the queshave been done if the returns are made and the law set aside, it is manifestly of the pending cases. It will involve no individuals, whether the law is to stand or fall; and this under the circumstances is just and right.

## Why Do We Wait?

The American colony in Havana today will take notice of the anniversary of the blowing up of the Maine and lay mourning wreaths upon what Admiral STEPHEN B. LUCE has called "a ghastly memorial of a great disaster." As the steamer from the States enters Havana harbor there is no mistaking that melancholy relic projecting out of the water. Everybody on board points to it, and every American is ashamed to see it there still. Two years ago American troops were in garrison at Camp Columbia near Ravana, and Major-General THOMAS H. BARRY did not fail to remember the Maine. We quote from a despatch to THE SUN:

the Second Cavalty and a supervisor of the Rural Guard went out in a launch toward the wreck and placed an American flag at balf mast on the re-Later a Rural Guard Heutenant placed a wreath on the wreck in behalf of the guard."

two officers and 264 of her crew perished.

AND THE PARTY OF T

Congress appropriated \$200,000 to raise Dr. CHARCOT indicates that while he may ship, the Mikasa, was blown up the Japanese engineers made plans to raise South Shetlands. her, and not long afterward she was clusion of peace with Spain, but it will top is above the water to escape the rial" beneath the waves.

#### Oil as Fuel for British Warships.

Whether the report in London that the Admiralty has decided to substitute oil for coal as fuel on warships is true or not, no one who is familiar with the experiments made by the British authorities and has observed the rapid construction of reservoirs at the naval ports to hold stores of oil would be surprised if the Government confirmed the report. Two years ago it was announced that oil would be burned exclusively on the seagoing torpedo boat destrovers. The larger war vessels were to carry supplies of oil-and exprovided by the act will be rigidly en- periment with it. Work was begun at Portsmouth on a system of tanks equipped with hose connections through which oil could be pumped into ships lying at the jetty, thus doing away with the confusion and dirt of coaling, and saving time and labor.

The advantages of using oil instead of coal for fuel are so great that the nation that first equips her warships with the end, the newly discovered King Ednecessary apparatus and establishes a chain of supply stations around the world will steal a long lead in naval efficiency over her rivals. That this is England's intention has been apparent for some time. All parts of the empire have been explored for petroleum, and promoters have gone far afield in countries such as Persia to find a sufficient and inexhaustible supply of crossing it he might keep on and reach oil for the navy. It has been struck in great quantities in Nigeria, and the same from Washington to prevent this stu- report comes from Egypt and Australia. pendous injustice by the exercise of While the quest was going on the Admidiscretion in guarding the returns have ralty, with great faith in the result, has been preparing supply stations in all parts of the world.

A warship taking on oil instead of coal for the stokehold can at once disin the part of any executive officer. pense with 75 per cent. of the working force. This liquid fuel can be carried not may constitute - "public records." as ballast in the double bottom of the ship, and as the oil is consumed water can be admitted. Coaling on the high seas has always been a difficult, protracted and tedious operation; but pipes all over the country that Congress shall passed from a tank steamer into the repeal this law, the amazing inequity side of the war vessel will quickly fill and probable unconstitutionality of her reservoir. Stoking with oil can be which were exhibited with sufficient managed easily under all weather conditions, even when the ship is steaming at full speed. Heat is generated so rapidly with oil that a battleship using sum of it all is trifling compared with tax was first proposed. People are it attains her top speed in very much s time than when the stokers are putof the contemplated outrage. Numerous ting in coal, no matter how fast they suits have been begun in the Federal Work. Thus the cruiser Duke of Edinburgh in the 1907 manœuvres, with oil as fuel, made twenty-three knots an hour against a head sea in a critical moment, ten cases to test the constitutionality and the battleship King Edward ran of the corporation income tax are actu- away from a coal using enemy. To particularly in the unexplored Weddell ally before the Supreme Court of the bring the comparison home to our own navy, if Sampson's fleet had been able are to be won, they would face almost as a national bank. Economic obstrucwould have made much shorter workcase of STELLA P. FLINT against the of the Spanish equadron. Oil is said Stone-Tracy Company, are assigned for to be more economical than coal, for the argument in the highest tribunal on furnace can be fed automatically with March 14, less than a fortnight after the oil without waste. It is true that coal in the bunkers furnishes protection to the vitals of the ship, but for this reason

only is it preferred to oil. For two years or more many of the tions to be determined in March by battleships and cruisers of the British the Supreme Court, the weight of legal Navy have been carrying a store of oil opinion that has developed against the to supplement the coal supply. Veslaw and the irreparable wrong that will sels of the King Edward class have been Franklin, Venango county. Pa., wants to refitted so that either oil or coal can be go to Congress again. After many political There is no appreciable limit to the power burned exclusively. Stoking with oil, adventures, after trying his luck as a of Congress in prescribing the instruthe destroyer Swift maintained for some the duty of Congress to pass without hours a speed of 38.3 knots, or nearly 45 publican and what not, he less the House and to what end? What benefit is to be delay an amendment extending the time land miles, and the battleship Dreadfor filing for at least sixty days. That nought has done far better work with will give an opportunity for a decision oil than with coal. Still, in spite of the demonstrated advantages of liquid fue legislative reconsideration of the act is prepared to dispense with coal altoit may be doubted if the British Nav, of last August. It will do no injury to gether. It would require not only the he sets his heart on. It seems he is still the United States Treasury. It will possession of ample sources of supply a Republican. We had thought him more simply give the Supreme Court a chance in different parts of the world but a volatile and roving. to say, before the damage is done to very nice calculation to keep the fuel stations repletished and ready for war. Oil could be more easily destroyed than coal, and it would be necessary to protect and guard the tanks. A supplementary stock of coal might be the means of saving a ship or even deci

a campaign. With its habitual foresight the British Admiralty is not likely to place its dependence entirely on oil no matter how abundant the production of oil in its possessions might prove. But all signs -the refitting and storing of ships and the building of reservoirs of large capacity at Chatham, Portsmouth, Plymouth and on the Mersey—point to a to think that hundreds of people who take pleasure decided preference for liquid fuel over decided preference for liquid fuel over coal by the British Admiralty.

on the night of February 15, 1898, and extends westward is still unbroken.

the ship, and also the sum of \$10,000 have made substantial additions to the to remove the remains of the dead maps for the Weddell and Ross quadofficers and men. One hundred and rants into which the south polar regions eighty-eight bodies were recovered, have been divided, he has failed to find brought home, and buried at Arlington. a gap through which the pole may be In the shadow of the war which the reached. He has sailed from the South destruction of the Maine had made Shetlands to 123 degrees west between inevitable, efforts to raise the vessel the 19th and 71st parallels, which means ceased, and for twelve years the only probably that in many places he has Americans who have visited the wreck come closer to the southern barrier than and the place of the dead have been the Belgica did; he has reached Alex-The country has been reminded that has determined the situation of BELimmediately after Admiral Togo's flag- LINGHAUSEN'S Peter L island and has

made some new observations in the The results are respectable from the restored to the navy list. The Maine scientific point of view, but in no way should have been raised upon the con-sensational. The return of the expedinever be too late as long as her fighting a proposed American expedition to the top is above the water to escape the south pole, as it emphasizes the fact, reproach it implies. "Why do we wait familiar to all students of geography to perform so plain a duty?" Admiral and exploration, that the only route to LUCE has asked. Who can say, unless that goal which any sane man can con- four corners; such as firemen use as a it is that we hope a natural convulsion sider is the one taken by Captain Scorr will come to hide the "ghastly memo- and Lieutenant SHACKLETON in their expeditions. It seems strange that Commander PEARY, himself the latest and most marked sufferer from the breach of comity among explorers. should be the one to suggest an undertaking, which could only hope to be successful by following in the track of the two gallant Englishmen, in the region assigned by international agreement to

British enterprise. At only two points has it been found possible to penetrate appreciably beyond 70 degrees the ice and land encircling the south pole, namely, in the great indentation discovered by Sir James Ross, and called Ross Sea. which comes close to the 80th parallel. and in the Weddell Sea almost opposite, which has been penetrated beyond 74 degrees. It is practically from the foot of the volcanoes which Ross named after his ships, Erebus and Terror, that SCOTT, and after him SHACKLETON. made their dashes. Both examined the ice barrier and thought that the trip might also be made from the other ward VII. Land, which is no nearer to the pole. Nowhere else has any place been found in which an expedition could make its winter quarters that is not 500, miles more distant from the

point aimed at. The hopeful confidence which inspired SHACKLETON when he started for the pole led him to dream that after the other edge of the land or ice, at the Weddell Sea or the South Shetlands. If he had attained the pole he would have turned back all the same, for he could have arranged for no meeting place which his expedition could have had much chance of reaching. There is a great deal of exploration to be done on the edge of Antarctica before any ex- latter. plorer can start into the interior of whatever lies hidden there, with any chance of coming back, except from the base of Ross's ice barrier. The land lying nearest to South America, the Shetlands and other groups from which Dr. CHARcor is now returning, has presented more difficulties than any other section. The Germans made a brave attempt with the Gauss, but only just touched the edge; Swedes, Scotchmen, Belgians, French have all tried manfully and brought back something new, but the what has been accomplished at the one

If Americans hope to reach the south pole they must do it either in conjunction with Captain Scott's new expedition or in emulation of it, by making use of what he and Sir ERNEST SHACKI FTON have accomplished. Anywhere else, and sea region, where geographical laurels of being first at the pole.

I will roll the cannon out in the hallway of the jail and defend my prisoner until the last officer falls if necessary.—Sheriff Drauo of Alabama. Under the circumstances there will hardly be a ttempt to lynch the prisoner.

Ex-President ZELAYA threatens it, except possibly Secretary Knox.

Prohibitionist, Populist, Democrat, Reof Representatives and ensconced himself among his Floridian vineyards and orange groves. Now there is such a chance for a shindy that he longs to be back in the game. Beautiful, unctuous, a best "mixer" and forehanded, Mr. SIBLEY usually has a good chance of getting what

# The Snow on Riverside Drive

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—NY: What makes the Park Department so tardy in removing the snow from the walks in the park and Riverside Drive: The conditions on Riverside Drive on Sunday afternoon kept away the usual crowd that is wont to promedade up and down the drive on Sunday afternoon. Sunday afternoon.

A path about two feet wide was the only evidence that the spow had been touched. To make matters worse, the snow remaining on the walk was melting tapidly and the water soaked the part of the walks where the snow had been re-moved. forming little puddles here and there. Two persons could not walk abreast. The mafority of the people when they discovered the con-ditions turned back.

Riverside Drive is the best place in the upper

after a slight snowstorm. A walk from Ninety-slath street to 145th street revealed but two men shovelling snow, and they were working as en-

ERASING THE STATE BOUNDA- THE BRY AN-BAILEY PEUD IN

To rue Everon or Tue Sun-Sir: What are the Republican officials, the "male-factors of great wealth," the "predatory corporations" and the Republican politicians in Washington driving at?

"Republican" officials and politicians t Washington are emphasized because Democrata have become negligible since the reign of the Peerless One hegan. Only Republicans are now to be thought of. Much nowadays is vague those who remembered, and who grieved ander I. Land and perhaps explored the and mysterious, not only in recent laws for the neglect of their Government, country back of it to some extent; he affecting the corporate industries of the country-production, manufacture and exchange of commodities but in future legislation regarding interstate buying and selling. Here and there you hear it confidently asserted that controlling persons in corporations once denounced as "predatory" are in the scheme to put themselves under the contion is timely, however, with regard to trol of Congress if the Supreme Court tirover Cleveland, was elected. shall find that they have been guilty of Bailey has taken the lead in the light against violating the Sherman anti-trust law. The reason is not quite clear unless the new Federal incorporation plan is to be a kind of safety blanket, held by the receptacle for those in a city fire who jump from a fourth story window to escape the devouring flames. - If any corporations; it is asked, have been really and wilfully "predatory" and shall be judicially condemned as intentionally conspiring unlawfully to increase prices of food, raiment, shelter, transportation or other things of comfort, why not leave the n to die and perish on the sidewalk? Putting the business of the country in

the hands of Federal corporations is not new project. Mr. Garfield, who was President Roosevelt's first Commissioner of Corporations and was promoted by him to be head of the Interior Department, commenced it half a dozen years ago. The request that Congress consider advisability of enacting a law for the legislative regulation of interstate commerce "under a license or franchise" was transmitted to Congress. Mr. Garfield said, with perfect truth and frank-ness, that if the Knight sugar case had een decided as the Government asked "it would have gone far toward establishing the principle that the United States had control of all State business." An amendment of the Constitution may be proposed to annul that decision along with the income tax decision in the Pollock case.

Two years ago at the conference of Governors convened by President Roosevelt, to which he invited Mr. Bryan, the atter developed the "twilight zone" that most of the contentions over the line between the nation and the State "are traceable to predatory corporations."
The President responded by adding that he only wished "to provide some effective popular sovereignty for each corpora ion." He criticised judicial decisions He added that:

In matters that relate only to the people within the State of course the State is to be savereign and it should have the power to act. If the mat ter is such that the State itself cannot act, then Government should act.

He had already urged Congress to adopt either the plan of Federal license or charter. His successor prefers

What is sought under either plan may

be inferred from arguments which clever lawyers employed by the Government Railway Commission or by the Attorney General have from time to time addressed to the Federal courts. It is to be assumed that they expressed the opinions of the dministration by which they were retained. What they urged on the courts is instructive for any one who has the curiosity to discern the present drift. They insisted that the power of Congress to regulate includes all instrumentalities affecting even indirectly interstate commerce. State lines do not hinder. They impudently claimed that the Supreme Court had adjudged in the Northern Searrangements be regulated. Even the dividends by a State corporation carrying on interstate commerce and division of profits among owners can be regulated. say the Government lawyers. The solvency of the corporations can be cared for. Congress can, they claim, regulate an industrial corporation as completely in excess in the way of interstate commerce, are like physical obstructions, to be prevented or removed by Congress. Credit and surplus can be controlled. Common directors of State corporations

can be prevented.

It is impossible to describe a nationalism more complete than that which can to be thus accomplished under the interwrite a book to defend his administration. state clause of the Constitution. State We can think of no one who would read lines become a mere geographical expression. Freedom of commerce among the States can be destroyed by Congress. The Hon. JOSEPH CHOCKER SIBLEY of The right to engage in it becomes a 'privilege" subject to the pleasure of Congress. mentalities that Congress can regulate; conferred on the country? Whose pockets are to be filled? SAINT HELENA. WASHINGTON, D. C., February 14.

A Pipe Smoker by Natural Selection.

A Pipe Smoker by Natural Selection.

To THE EDITION OF THE SUN—Sir: Economy in pipe smoking? What's that got to do with it? On Christinas Day, 1908 (mind the year, will you?), six cigars were given to me for which the donor paid 40 cents each. I vow I've got two of them yet. Smoke them? Not when I can get the right pipe and the right tobacco, and I now have both.

The tobacco I've had for many years. Down in Philadelphia is the little shop that supplies it. When I first went there I told the artist about what I liked and the made up a mixture for me. It was too this and too that on the first trial, and so he aftered the composition again and again until he got it just right, exactly to my taste, and then the formula went down on his books atthen the formula went down on his books at-tached to my name and when I want a few pounds I write and ask for my mixture and get it just the ame every time. It costs me \$1.55 a pound, and f I am not too far off the expressage is prepaid. Then the pipel I found it last April in London, close to the Cariton, and it cost me eight and six, close to the Carlton, and it cost me eight and six, a big price there. But such a pipe! The dealer assured me that piece of briar had been seasoning for twenty-five years, and I can believe it, for there was no "breaking in" to that pipe. It was as sweet the first time as it is to-day. These pipes are not made for the trade and can be bought only in the little shop in Pall Mall. But there's more solid comfort in this pipe of tobacco than in any cigar that ever was rolled.

MONTREAL, February 13. S. K. WATERS.

## Liquers in Japan.

there still. Two years ago American troops were in garrison at Camp Columbia near. Havana, and Major-General Thomas H. Barry did not fail to remember the Maine. We quote from a despatch to The Sun:

"Early in the morning Major H. J. SLOCUM of the Second Cavalry and a supervisor of the Rural Guard went out is a launch toward the wreck and placed an American dag at balf mast on the regarding portion of the fighing portion of the fighing top of the ship. Later a Rural Guard lieutenant placed a wreath on the wreck for the wreck in behalf of February 15, 1598, and five officers and 26s of her crew perished.

The Antarette.

The Challenge in the name of the Pour-quoi Pas? has been ineffective, and Dr. JFAN CHARCOT returns from the Antaretic, having found no chance to dash, for the second Cavalry and a supervisor of the Rural Guard went out is a launch toward the wreck and placed an American dag at balf mast on the remaining portion of the fight of the ship. Later a Rural Guard lieutenant placed a wreath on the wreck in behalf of the guard."

The Maine was blown up at 9:40 o'clock of the South Shetlands with very little progress southward, and the barrier that of the night of February 15, 1598, and fwo officers and 26s of her crew perished.

The meagre account cabled home by

that is the second to the

TEXAS.

DALLAS, Feb. 10.-Texas produced last year something like a billion dollars in raw materials—cattle, lumber, corn. cotton and wool. Within 300 miles of this city is produced one-eighth of the cotton of the United States, excepting when the boll weevis gets in its deadly work. The shoe that the Texan wears is made in New England, the chair that he sits in comes from Grand Rapids. and collars come from New York or Trov. of the North. Therefore when Senato Joseph W. Bailey, sorely troubled by the Hearst attacks over Standard (il) and other matters, hemmed in by factional enemie at home and threatened by a fresh ir vasion from Bryan, found his political position imperilled and realized that he was no longe the idol of the Texas planters and ranch men, he cast the Denver platform of 190 on the tariff to the winds and along with it the platform of 1992, adopted at Chicago, on which the last Democratic President free raw materials, has organized success fully many of the planters, business men already raging furiously for control of the next Nfate convention and the Democratic primaries which will settle the election in districts are solidly Democratic, and a Dem Direct primaries prevail. In the presen four Republicans. The Democratic plural-

As few finished products are made in Texas, while raw products are raised all over the State, Senator Bailey believed he has found a commanding issue on which he hopes to unite a majority of the Democrats. To make a campaign that covers Texas means some hard travelling

for the campaigner.
Prior to his recent Pacific coast speak ing trip Bryan had covered the important Texas towns, rallying his friends with his new tariff appeals, to fight Bailey and his platform. Senator Charles A. Culberson has tried hard to avoid taking sides in the feud between Bryan and Bailey. Mr. Cu comes up for reelection in the next Legis lature and is threatened with a contest.

As a rule in his votes in the Senate on the Aldrich bill he stood with Bryan rather than with Bailey.

Bryan has left with his Texas supporter write to your Senator and to your member of Congress and ask them how they stand Mr. Bryan":

1. A platform is a pledge given by the cand date to the voters, and when ratified at the poll becomes a contract between the official and hi constituents. To violate it in letter or in spirit is not only undemocratic but repugnant to the principles of representative government and conitutes an embezziement of power. 2. We denounce the despotism known as Car

nonism and favor such an amendment to the rules of the national House of Representative as will restore popular government in that bod 3. We indorse the tariff plank of the last na

tional Democratic platform and believe that the abolition of the compensat duties on woollens and a substantial reduction in the ad valorem rate on woollens.

Free hides, leather, harness, boots and si Free oil and products of oil. Free iron ere, free coal, and low duties on anufactures of iron and steel.

in the tariff upon all other necessaries of life, especially upon articles sold abroad more cheaply than at home, the sim being to put the lowest duty on articles of necessity and the highest on articles of luxury. Articles coming into competition with trust made articles should be place

on the free list. No tariff rate should be above 50 per cent. ac valorem except upon liquor and tobacco, and all rates above 25 per cent. excepting those upon liquor and tobacco should be reduced one-twen-lieth each year until a 25 per cent. rate is reached the purpose being to reduce the tariff gradually

This platform should also be every candidate for Congress. Men who aspire to public office and men whose aspirations have been honored by the people have no right to

Texas Democrats are divided into Bryan and anti-Bryan Democrats, Railey and anti-Balley Democrats. The Balley men are opposed to Bryan and the Bryan followers. are fighting Bailey. Just at present the issue that the ;wo factions are fighting over is the irrepressible tariff question, which has taken new form and caused a new alignment in Texas. But down deep is the eng fend which has existed between Sena tor Joseph W. Bailey and William J. Bryan met the young Nebrasken in debate in Congress. Clashing ambitions for oratorical leadership and shaping of party policies and platforms created lealousie nd personal distikes between the two young Congressmen, as early as 1804, and the changes of the last sixteen years have failed to mellow the asperities of politics. Some of Bailey's friends believe that he rather han Bryan should have been nomirated for President by the Democratic party In the stormy convention of ignat Chicago when Bryan the late Governor Alteald Gorernor, now Senator, Stone of Missouri and the late Senator White of California ook control of the party organization from Grover Cleveland; David B. Hill, the late Governor William E. Russell of Massachu-setts and Secretary Vilas of Wisconsin the thirty delegates from Texas were for free silver and pledged to support Congressman Richard P. Bland of Missouri for the Presidential nomination. Bryan made his famous "cross of gold and crown of thorns" speech that swept the convention off its feet and some of the Texas delegates started to break away from Bland and wanted to go over to Bryan. Bailey was furious. Those who heard him berate the Texas delegates who wanted to vote for Bryan will never forget his flerce denuncia-tion of the Nebraskan. The delegation ballot after ballot, but finally broke away and the chairman announced thirty votes from Texas for Bryan under the unit rule. Observers long remembered the angry ex-clemations of the Texas leader.

## London's Fat Boy.

From the London Evening Standard.

A memorial of the great fire of London is in danger of vanishing. The gidled fat boy put up on the Fortune of War, an old city inn at Pye corner. West Smithfield, where the fire stopped, may soon have the wall which has been his refuge pulled down about his ears, as the inn has closed its doors and is to be demolished. The figure of its doors and is to be demolished. The figure of a fat boy was chosen, we are told, because the fire was caused "by the sin of gluttony." It is pleasant to find such an emphatic statement as to the birth of that catastrophe; usually it is shrouded in a mist of hazy legends in which plots and conspiracies loom large. There is this much to be said for the gluttony theory, that the fire started in the house of one Farriner, "the King's baker," who lived in Pudding lane, near New Fish street hill. The whole neighborhood, it will be seen, reeked of cating. However, the will be seen, recked of cating. However, the rights and wrongs of this theory will never be settled. The important point now is to preserve this gilded fat boy from the destruction awaiting. him. He should be tenderly removed with all his gilt upon him, and set up again at one of the other spois where the fire ceased to rage—in Holbora Hill or Aldersgate, for instance. Such a standing warning against one of our national besetting sins is too good to be lost even though the lesson be partially observed by eith. he lesson be partially obscured by gilt.

## A Fox Roply.

From the Westminster Gazette.

One of the most caustic replies ever made during an election campaign was that of Fox when
he called at a shop during one of his candidatures. The shopman happened to be a rabid opponent.
Taking hold of a piece of rope, he said savagely
"Vote for you! I'd sooner hang you with this
sope!" "Very in teresting," remerked Fos blandly. was a revelation to many on the out-side of the cold storage walls when it was made known last week that there York 50,000 pounds of "fresh" halibut that had been in the plant three years, besides

COLD STORAGE FISH.

Hints About Its Edibility.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir:

10,000 cases of other fish that had been ther There is no article on the menu of huma food that decays so quickly and becomes so wholly unfit to eat as fish, no matte any article of food that shows the sign

two hens and seven pullets.

so, wholly unfit to eat as fish, no matter what the species, age or size: nor is there any article of food that shows the signs of decay quicker (if you know them) when not preserved with salt or ice.

As I have helped to catch and bring into the ports of Gloucester and Boston many large cargoes of halibut from the Grand Banks, the Western, Georges, Miquelon, Anticosti and other-noted fishing grounds at all seasons of the year, I may be supposed to know something about fresh halibut. First of all let me say there is only one element that will preserve fish for any length of time, and that is sait.

There are two kinds of halibut, white and gray. The color of the under part of the white fish is perfectly white, while that of the gray is dark with black splotches down the side. The former is always the vounger fish, easily as large as the gray, the fiesh very much firmer and of finer grain, and with the trade it brings from three to eight cents a pound more. The flesh of the gray or "logy," so it is known, is not nearly as desirable or delicate. It is much coarser, is discolored by dark streaks and circles, and will not keep fresh nearly as long as the white. So "logy" is the overgrown gray halibut that he can be told as soon as he bites and is being hauled up, perhaps from three to six weeks. When the fish is caught and hoisted in on deck the gills and insides are removed, a large chunk of ice put in the pocket, and the fish stowed below in pens covered with broken ice.

By the time the vessel has her catch and returns home three weeks or more has elapsed. The fish, if they are not sold to the local markets, are boxed with a fresh supply of ice and shipped to all parts of the country or to the cold storage plants, the greater part of the load having by that time been out of the water for perhaps a month.

If these fish are immediately sold 1 do not hesitate to say that they have not passed the stage where they are sweet and fit for food: but after this, particularly should the weather be hot, the flesh begins to

tood; but after this, particularly should the weather be hot, the flesh begins to soften no matter how freely they may be iced, and they are then unfit for human food. Rapidly following this stage the fish becomes "dead," loses its firmness and begins to fall away from the bones. Not only does it lose its value as food when it has arrived at this stage of decomposition but it possesses absolutely no nutritive qualities for assimilation and is deleterious rather than beneficial to the human system.

If fish at this early stage of its "life" is than beneficial to the numan system. If fish at this early stage of its "life" is unfit for food, the public can draw its own conclusions as to its ediblity after it has been laid on the shelf in cold storage for three years. NEW BRITAIN, Conn., February 14.

## THRIVING SEATTLE.

Her Buildings, Banks, Railroads and Mis cellaneous Growth. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sin tention of the Seattle Chamber of Com-

herce has been called to a letter in THE SUN under the caption "Hard Times on the Coast," signed by W. M. Hendrick, dated it San Francisco, January 13 While the writer deals more particularly

with California and its cities, we respectfully ask THE SUN to correct the impression conveyed by the heading over the commucation in question., So far as the people of Seattle are concerned they point to 1909 as the most important year in the history of the city in volume of business done and

of the city in volume of business done and the degree of development enjoyed. The statement that "conditions on the coast beggar description" could not be further from the truth. During 1999 Seattle issued building remits representing a value of more than \$19,000,000, surpassing any previous year by nearly 38,000 000. Our bank clearings amounted to \$586,000,000, again of more than \$150,000,000 over 1908; post office receipts to more than \$968,000, or an increase of \$208,000 over 1908. Two new transcontinental railroads, the Chicago, Milwaukee and Puget Sound and the Harriman system, began operation of trains into this city. The volume of railroad construction work, of irrigation development and building in The volume of railroad construction work, of irrigation development and building in every direction throughout the State has been greater than ever before and will during the present year continue on the same scale. While it is possible to find in Seattle, as in any other city in the United States, men who are not at work, we are confident that the proportion is relatively

it must not be understood from the cita-tion of statistics above mentioned that there is any abnormal demand for labor in this city and vicinity. The development work done in 1909 was handled by people on the ground and those who came during the year, and whatever increase may result in 1910 will doubtless be taken care of by those now resident in the State or those who may come in the course of the natural growth caused by the development of this new and rich Commonwealth.

SRATTLE, Wash., February 9.

#### FARMING IN PALESTINE. The Primitive Methods of an Impoverished Population.

From Daily Consular and Trade Reports The land is rented and farmed in a primitive way, which is unproblable to both landlord and count alke, as compared with what might be accomplished under a more advanced system.

The lands are rented for one-third of the coproduced. After the harvest the grain is important to the complex of diately threshed. The tithes or Government tax is first taken, which is one-tenth of the whole crop, and then the remainder is divided, the land-lord receiving his one-third share. The farmer lord receiving his one-third share. The farmer has generally piedged a good portion of the expected crop. virtually selling it at a greatly reduced price, for the purpose of securing money in advance for his necessities. If grain is \$1 a bushel, on an advance to him of \$100 he will agree to deliver to the party who advances the money 130 or 140 bushels of grain after the harvest. Should the crop fall it is carried over to the next year, but under a new contract in which 30 per cent, is added to the original amount.

The farmer classes have no realizing sense of the injustice done them is matters of business. They are thus kept destitute and poor and can hardly provide themselves with the common necessities of life. The tools and implements used by them are little different from those used by the patriarchs.

The native farmers of the plains live in villages

The native farmers of the plains live in village

and under a communal system calculated to destroy every incentive for the improvement of the land. It is apportioned by lot every three years, and each person is free to do as he pleases with his portion. In some of the communities each villager or family owns a portion of the family of the communities. farm lands. The original farm is subdivided among the survivors in each succeeding genera-tion until eventually it is in very small patches. There are a number of colonics established on the plains by the Jews and Germans. They are engaged in agriculture and are far in advance of engaged in agriculture and are far in advance of the natives in methods of cultivation. Still these people use out of date farm implements and are not provided with farm machinery to any extent. They are also very conservative, and would require considerable persuasion or other inducement to influence them to change from their present methods.

heir present methods.

The conditions outlined are those of souther than the conditions outlined are those of southern than the conditions of the conditions Palestine. In the northern parts and in mucl of Syria it is different. The country as a whole northward is more fertile and the people are in

East of the Jordan is a vast region said to have a rich and productive soil, and its inhabitants are beginning to manifest interest in securing im-proved machinery and implements for farm purproved maconery and implements for farm pur-poses. A railroad has recently been constructed through this section, giving improved transpor-tation facilities, and some of the people are awak-ening to the possibility of improved conditions with the adoption of better methods.

## Commercial Freedom.

To the Epiton of The Sun—Sir. With reference to the high prices of food (and of everything else) will you allow me to send you a copy of the following passage from some French memotra written just 160 years ago:

"Le bon marché vient de la concurrence, source, féconde de richesses, et fille de la liberté. Donc un Etat qui veut assurer chez lui la prospérité du commerce doit le laisser agir en pleine liberté; attentif seulement a prévenir la fraude que l'intérêt privé, souvent mai ontendu, peut inventer au détriment de l'intérêt général. Les Gouverna. au détriment de l'intérêt général. Les Gouverne-ments doivent tenir la balance, et les citoyens la charger a leur gré." FRANK PATTERSON. PASADENA, Cal., February 7.

#### MORE JERSEY HENS. A Giorious Anthentic Record From a Lakelow Hallbut Is Caught and Marketed, With wood Egg Be

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN -Sir: The letter of a suburbanite correspondent of Tax Sun about his hens moves me to rise and remark that I too have hens and a record. Last October I brought to Lakewood from my country home four Orpington hens (black) and seven pullets. I put them in a house hastily made over from a rustic seat, lined with tar paper and fronted with unbleached

In November they all had the grin (symptoms unmistakable) and f had to nurse them for ten days to save any of them, but lost only "Beauty," my finest January 3 "Mother," a two-year-old began to lay, and on January 7 one of the pullets, just six months prentice hand, after which the other two year-old, "lady," and the other six pullets fall into line, with the result that the month of January gave me fifty-eight eggs from

and see that the first week, credited by your correspondent with twenty-four eggs from his eight (scratch team) of various breeds gave me thirty-six eggs from my nine black Orpingtons, "Grandma," five years old, being under the weather from the sequelre of grip and a frosted comb, not having joined the band of producers at that time. Since then, however, she has nerked up and begun to lay, so that to-day, February 11, my record from seven sixmonths-old pullets and three old hens stands at fifty-six since February 1, with one county still to be heard from, as "Grandma" lays after 2 P. M., liking the day to be well aired before she goes to work. The methods of your suburgan friend are fine and just what I do, except that I would like to add that before winter came I gathered and stored load after load of oak and chestnut leaves with which to carpet hen house and half of the 12 by 8 foot run, putting it in fresh once or twice a week, not only keeping feet and legs warm but giving good scratching for the scraps my cook peppers and rots out for them. On cold evenings too I heat whole corn in the oven so hot I can hardly handle it, and enjoy their enjoyment when I throw it out to them at 4 o'clock. Lakewood is windy, so I begged the trimmings of a neighbor's spruce tress and wove them in and out of the wire fence on the north and east, besides making a bower for my turkeys.

But turkeys are another story. J. H. C.
Lakewood, N. J., February 14. black Orpingtons, "Grandma," five year

P. S.-Later. "Grandma" has just come out of the harrel, which she prefers to the box nest. Six eggs to-day.
P. S. No. 2. Another egg in the barrel!
That makes seven to-day, and no way to account for it unless a scrubby, undersized hen of mixed breed (dirty white), bought with a family of young ones, has been inspired by the example of my aristocrate to

#### THE LESSON OF MERWICK. Thoughts on the Discontents at Princeton and a Sigh for the Old Days.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Conies of the issue of the Princetonian noticed in THE SUN to-day were sent to six hundred graduates with the double purpose of exhibiting the paper in its rem and presenting to representative alumni definite statement of undergraduate opinion in the matter of the graduate school. As one of the favored six hundred I was particularly impress to the experience of the present graduate

school at Merwick. In 1905, "as a temporary expedient to last only until the college should be built, the property at Merwick was secured. ten in Bayard lane, three minutes walk

In is a private estate in the town of Princeton in Bayard lane, three minutes walk to the north of Nassau street, on the south side of which lies the present campus. Here in a little world of its own apart a small community of graduate students has for four years lived and moved and had its being. In a building of their own, surrounded by beautiful parklike grounds, these more advanced students have had an opportunity to enjoy the seclusion desired for them by Dean West.

The Princetonian finds that the attractions of Merwick have not been sufficient to "induce Princeton men to return for graduate study." Its influence upon the undergraduates has been negligible. The Princetonian editor cannot see what reasonable objection graduate students can have to contact with the upper classes of the university, even to sharing the use of quarters in the same buildings, the arrangement alleged to be favored by President Wilson. He says "experience at Merwick has convinced President Wilson and a majority of the committees of both faculty and trustees that central location is more than ever necessary.

Would community of interest result in

would community of metallicity and subordination of the undergraduate, a lessening of his influence as the real "Princeton man"? Rather, it would raise the standard of ideals and their realization in the four college years. It would take nothing four college years. It wou

from the Princeton life of the present, but would add a new and desirable element. If there is to be a graduate school, better incorporate it with the present institution than make it a separate body sharing the name but not the life.

But why cannot Princeton be satisfied to go on as she is? Why this passion for size, riches, influence? Princeton used to be unique of her kind: neither a "minor" college nor a university but with the advantages of each; the simplicity of the small college, its intimacy and unity, and the adequate material equipment of the big college. Must she move with the times? Some of us old-sters revisiting Princeton will sigh now and then amid the glories of Princeton University for the simpler days of the good old College of New Jersey.

OLD GRAD.

### CORPS COMMANDERS. Remarks on the Plan to Make Sickles a

Lieutenant-General. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The proposition before Congress to give General Daniel E. Sickles the rank and pay of a Mentenant-General in the regular army would not be objected to in any quarter if similar rewards were conferred upon other living soldiers whose services in behalf of the Union were more important than those of General Sickles.

of General Sickles.

Several years ago it was proposed to restore General David MeM. Gregg, the distinguished cavalryman, to the regular army with the modest rank of Captain, but the attempt was abandoned. For some time General Gregg commanded all the cavalry with the Army of the Potomac. He was in command at Gettysburg when the Confederate cavalry sought to strike Meade's battle line in the rear. He fought there a hard battle, drove the Confederates from the field and did much to preserve the Union position.

James H. Wilson, who commanded a cavalry corps, is alive and vigorous at Wilmington, Ind. General G. M. Dodge, another Union corps commander, is still alive.

Because Ceneral Sickles side serve the

another Union corps
alive.

Because General Sickles did serve the
Union cause to the best of his ability no one
would object to making him a LieutenantGeneral, provided Gregg and Dodge and
Wilson also received the same rank and
J. M. M.

TRENTON, N. J., February 14.

## The Missouri School of Bards

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The scheme of the University of Missouri to establish a school for peets is interesting, if peculiar. A good many of us would like to know just how they are going to make Tennysons and Byrons out of pressic material. On an average I am favored with quite a dozen poetic attempts every week with a plea to criticise and correct them—of course gratis. In three years I have found only one man, who has been modestly hiding himself in a West-ern State, worthy of encouragement. The vein was undoubtedly born in him and he will suc-

was undoubtedly born in him and ne will succeed if he perseveres and has a regular salaried position to fall back on.

As a matter of absolute fact nearly all persons—most women, anyway—think they can write poetry, or, say, verse. "It looks so easy," they say. It does undoubtedly when it is well pollabed, but the verse with tripping lines and unobtrusive though correct trythm is earthly beautiful. to write. Nearly every one too, and women are in a great majority here also, has an idea that playwriting is as simple as the alphabet. A middle aged lady told me some months ago that she had been taking lessons in playwriting, and now she turns out an elaborate drama every three modities.

now she turns out an elaborate frama every tarce montts, which is invariably rejected by every manager to whom she sends it.

In London I notice there is a poets' club. If such a thing were started here heaven only knows how many would apply for memberahip. Still it would soon cease to exist, for from what I know of nocts, even could contain their would so. of poets, even good poets, they wou able to pay their thues. NEW YORK, February 14.

A Kansas Sarterial Note.

From the Topeka Capital.

Lew Smucker, "ho is spending a few days in Topeks, is wearing a \$60 suit of clothes, a \$60 overcost and \$7 has.